

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY NEA:ARDAY:TH

APPROVED BY TH SECRETARY

NEA:ALATHERTON, JR.

S/S: O - LRMACFARLANE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 254357

EXDIS FOR AMBASSADOR FROM THE SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, US, IS, EG

SUBJECT: YOUR MEETING WITH SADAT

REF: CAIRO 13913

1. I THINK IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE TO SAVE ANY THOUGHTS WE MIGHT HAVE ON BROAD ISSUES SUCH AS PEACE NEGOTIATIONS AND LEBANON FOR YOUR RETURN TO CAIRO AFTER CONSULTATIONS IN WASHINGTON, AT WHICH TIME THEY CAN BE PRESENTED AS BASED ON YOUR CONSULTATIONS HERE WITH THE EXTRA ELEMENT OF INTIMACY AND IMMEDIACY THAT THIS CONVEYS. YOU SHOULD THEREFORE IN THE MAIN LISTEN TO WHAT SADAT HAS TO SAY AND OFFER TO CARRY BACK WITH YOU TO WASHINGTON ANY THOUGHTS AND QUESTIONS HE MAY HAVE FOR US.

2. IF HE RAISES THE ARMS SALES TO ISRAEL, YOU SHOULD IN RESPONDING TAKE THE FOLLOWING LINE AS YOUR PERSONAL VIEW: AS PRESIDENT SADAT WILL UNDERSTAND, THERE IS A TENDENCY IN PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES FOR THE MEDIA AND THE ISRAELIS TO BLOW SUCH ISSUES OUT OF PROPORTION. IT IS BEING PLAYED
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UP PARTICULARLY IN ISRAEL FOR DOMESTIC POLITICAL REASONS.

WE ARE ISRAEL'S ARMS SUPPLIER, AS IS WELL KNOWN; THIS IS AN ONGOING PROCESS AND WE HAVE MORE OR LESS CONTINUING EXCHANGES WITH THE ISRAELIS ON THE SUBJECT. THE EQUIPMENT

THAT HAS BEEN APPROVED IN THE PAST FEW DAYS FOR SALE HAS BEEN UNDER DISCUSSION FOR MANY MONTHS AS ITEMS THAT ISRAEL DESIRED FROM US. IN THE TOTALITY OF THE CONTINUING ARMS SUPPLY THEY DO NOT FIGURE AS A MAJOR FACTOR. THEY WILL CERTAINLY NOT ALTER THE ARMS BALANCE IN THE MIDDLE EAST. THEY ARE REFINEMENTS OF EXISTING TECHNICAL CAPABILITIES AND THEY DO NOT INCREASE THE GENERAL QUANTITY LEVELS WITH WHICH SADAT IS FAMILIAR. WE HOPE THAT OUR ARAB FRIENDS WILL LOOK AT THEM IN THIS PERSPECTIVE, KEEPING IN MIND THE SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES THAT NOW OBTAIN. THE INDIVIDUAL CONTRACTS WILL IN ANY CASE BE SPACED OUT DURING THE PERIOD TO COME--THERE ARE NO DELIVERY SCHEDULES AS YET--AND WILL BE NOTIFIED TO THE CONGRESS IN THE USUAL WAY.

3. IF SADAT ASKS ABOUT THE STATUS OF THE AMOCO DRILLING IN THE GULF OF SUEZ, TELL HIM THAT WE ARE ACTIVELY PURSUING THIS WITH THE ISRAELIS, THAT I HAD TWO DISCUSSIONS WITH ALLON ABOUT IT DURING HIS VISIT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND THAT WE ARE CONTINUING TO PRESS FOR AMOCO'S RIGHT TO DRILL AT SITE 304.1. WE HAVE MADE PROGRESS IN THE TALKS TO DATE. WE WILL BE IN TOUCH WITH THE EGYPTIANS JUST AS SOON AS POSSIBLE ABOUT THIS. KISSINGER

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